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Newsletter 2 and 4 of the Baghdad School have been sent out together, since Newsletter #2 had failed to reach me, and Dr. Crawford, therefore, had to prepare a new copy. It may not be out of place to note here that the achievements of the Irag Surface Survey conducted b y B ob Adams and Waughn Cr awford are a source of pride and pleasure to all interested in Mesopotam ian archaeology. This is a relatively in expensive, but arduous and intensive arachaeological expedition, which has carr ied on without a day's interruption in spite of inclem ent weather, wretched roads, broken vehicles, and international strife. In fifty days 800 tells were visited and mapp ed, that is, at the rate of sixteen per day, and from . ot a few of the m sherds and other artifacts were collected and recorded. This is probably an archaeological record which will not be topped for many a year.

S.N.K.

Our second period in the field from October 27 to November 4 is now behind us. This time we h ave begun, we believe, to strike pay dirt with one old water course wh i ch may eventually p rove to be none other than one ancient path of the Euphrates itself. If it is not this, then an elaborate canal system must have e xisted already in Ubaid times. We went out, as I suggested in my first letter, with the hope that the two well-known old sites, Uqair and Jemdet Nasr, would in themselves be enough to point to the direction of a settlement pattern along a water way belonging to the fourth and third millennia. B asing ourselves first at Uqair for two nights and later near TellIm am Ibrahim we fanned out in search of sites having a showing of Ubaid-Early Dynastic potsherds. We struck the first such mound having the modern name Tell Abu Sureima to the SE of U qair. The great bulk of evidence there is Islamic, but the early material also ex ists. Next we went to the NW of Uqair hitting a small site k nown as Tell al-Gara'ah/Imriyah. Here in addition to Ubaid sickles we obtained plano-convex bricks of the ED period. Two days later still farther to the NW we found Ubaid and ED pottery at a pair of small tells, really no more than salty patches surrounded by fields, called Ishan Hamid and T ell al-'Araji. The first of these is no more than 1.5 m. in height and 100 m. in diameter and the second is a little larger. Our final two days out took us toward Jemdet N asr. The first day we visited too many tells to reach it. We added t wo more mounds, however, to our small but growing number of early settlements: These were 078 and 0 79, the latter having the name Tell al-Rishaid. On Saturday, November 3, we did arrive at Jemdet Nasr and what a field day we had collecting Ubaid, Jemdet Nasr and ED sherds together with a mass of flint blades, scrapers, and celts! Later the same afternoon We found still another small site, 081, just S of Jemdet N asr having Ubaid evidence. This covers the tells with which we are most concerned at the moment. In addition to the two sites known from the start, namely, U qair and J emdet N asr, we now have seven more which run generally in the NW-SE line set by the first two mentioned. The line is not straight and two or three of the small sites would appear to be on small feed er canals, or perhaps, all the tells are, rather were, on a winding course of the Euphrates. The total length of the line is approximately t wenty miles. We hope to be able to increase this distance on both N and the S on subsequent trips out. Our present plan is to return to the region of Jemdet Nasr and to head still farther to the SE on the next trip. This will take us beyond the limits of the Musaiyib Irrigation Project in which we have been working.

We have tried to examine mounds in a band sufficiently wide to enable us to catch any feeder canals branching off or any meandering of the main water course. It is perhaps too early to say how successful we have been in this respect. In addition to the nine sites already mentioned there are two others where we have obtained a slight show of early, that is Ubaid-Early Dynastic pottery. It was so little, however that we have discounted them. The nine tells in question seem to have been occupied in Ubaid and to have died out in Early Dynastic times. In two of them, it is true, there is very late Islamic occupation, but since the line of evidence was not continuous, they too must have ceased to exist as living settlements for hundreds and hundreds of years before a later canal revived them.

Our plan, therefore, of choosing two known old sites as starting points seems to have paid dividends. We hope to continue this method, that is, of pursuing definite ancient water course lines rather than an overall examination of every tell no matter what its age. To visit every mound would be ideal but by counting the number of mounds on a single sheet of our 1:50,000 series of maps and using it as an average Bob concluded one evening that there were no less than 24,000 tells in the arable land in the jazireh south of Baghdad! If a survey team could spend 120 actual days in the field for each 180 day season averaging 10 tells per day, it would take about 20 years to see them all! Even if there are only half that number or if the per diem rate could be raised to 20 the task would still be staggering. The reason for our selectivity is thus apparent. We are collecting and keeping sherd samples only from sites which are from the second millennium B.C. or older.

Jemdet Nasr, by the way, is not named on our Arabic maps. It is called only a "raised place." This is quite excusable, however, when a huge site like Kish is not identified on the English maps. Jemdet Nasr contrary to Langdon is located one mile NW of the northern extremity of Barguthiyat instead of one-half mile to the N. Although one can no longer see what Langdon really did, it seems likely that one could still excavate there with geat profit. A small canal of the Musaiyib Project strikes the tell on its southern edge. We are not clear as to whether this will be continued northwards to join a main canal thus cutting through the eastern portion of the mound. The reason for our uncertainty is that while many of the canals in the Musaiyib bring water others are for drainage. We do not know to which category the canals involved belong.

The potsherds from our second trip have been processed and our maps are up-to-date. If our business at the Department can be concluded this morning, we can be off again tomorrow. We need only to secure new maps and a new representative. The health of our first commissioner is no longer sound. We trust there is nothing wrong which a rest in Baghdad will not mend.

Vaughn E. Crawford
Director Baghdad School